

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY NOTES

**RE: MLB Public Meeting #3 - May 24, 2005
Greenleaf King Recreation Center
Washington, D.C.**

Neighborhood Development

- Need was expressed for a community input team focusing on general neighborhood interests and concerns. The commenter indicated that affordable housing issues were being adequately facilitated, but there was a need for greater facilitation of general issues, such as hiring practices, jobs, and development opportunities.
- Concern was expressed about the level of responsiveness to the community by the planning and design team. A transportation study reflecting future development build-out was specifically cited.
- Hope IV-type housing issues were raised.

Environment and Open Space

- Inquiry was made regarding the timeline for environmental clean-up efforts.
- Concern was raised about increased trash, noise, and traffic pollution relative to the future ballpark and new development.

South Capitol Street

- Comment was made about the visual beauty expressed in plans for South Capitol Street. Concern was raised that current residents don't fit into these plans.
- Need for expansion and coordination of youth programs was discussed. The Earth Conservation Corps was cited as a positive example.

Traffic and Transportation

- SW Community House funding was raised.
- Questions about the routing of tour buses serving the ballpark were raised.
- Disappointment was expressed regarding the lack of a traffic study with concrete numbers and figures.
- Preference was voiced for free resident's parking at parking meters.
- Concern was raised about jobs for the SW and near-SE community. Need for job training and ensuring that jobs go to current residents was specifically discussed.

Baseball

- Encouragement for the exploration of alternate transit options was recorded. Specific interest in the use of water taxis for accessing the ballpark, as in other cities with major league teams, was referenced.
- Questions about youth programs and local baseball-related community involvement made financially possible by the arrival of the Nationals were raised. Current residents want to feel involved in the process of developing these opportunities.
- Need for ADA accessible construction of buildings, infrastructure, sidewalks, parks, and open spaces was expressed
- Comment was made about prioritization of a number issues regarding the ballpark planning – orientation, access, programming, height, and adjacent development as examples. Desire for public transparency about priorities was expressed, as was clarity regarding areas where decisions deviate from neighborhood preferences.

General Q&A

- Concern was raised that the ballpark was generating temporary and seasonal jobs for local residents.
- Questions were raised regarding relocation efforts for businesses displaced by ballpark.
- Comments were made regarding the nature of new development, indicating that nearby residents want not only places to shop, but also opportunities to participate as shop owners.
- Concern was expressed over “scripted” meeting prepared for a low income community that resists the ballpark.
- Concern was expressed that the zoning text amendment is a piecemeal response to guiding the design of the ballpark, as opposed to a tool ensuring that the existing community receives adequate protection and opportunities.